

Moore Independence declares the 4th day of July 1776.

**Documents from the July 7, 2023
Leesburg First Friday Program
Preserving Our Heritage: Loudoun's
Revolutionary War Court Records**

Indictment vs Rev Jeremiah Wade 364 451
School House Leasing 159

**Records from the Clerk of the Circuit Court's
Historic Records Division**

Vanderwanden page 41
" page 122
" " 257
" " 369
" " 477

**Gary M. Clemens
Clerk of the Circuit Court**

Loudoun County

VIRGINIA

Jacob Vanderwanden - 38

Moore Independence declared the 11th day of July 1776.

Present Josias Clapham - George West
Francis Peyton - Tho^s Lewis & Samuel Love j. Gent.
The Declaration of Independancy by the Hon.^{co} Congress was
read at the Courthouse Door by the Sheriff pursuant to an Order of
the Governor & Council of Virginia.

"The Declaration of Independence by the Hon. Congress was read at the courthouse door by the sheriff pursuant to an order of the Governor && Council of Virginia."

Reading of the Declaration of Independence, Court Order Book G, Page 1

On August 12, 1776, Josias Clapham, George West, Francis Peyton, Thomas Lewis and Samuel Love were given the official Oath as Justices for Loudoun County, Commonwealth of Virginia in the United States of America. After the Oath was administered the Declaration of Independence was read by the Sheriff on the Court House steps in accordance with an Order from the Governor and Council of Virginia. Legend has it that Loudoun was one of the first if not the first in Virginia to publicly announce the Declaration of Independence. After the Declaration was read the remaining County officials, the Clerk, Sheriff and Deputy Sheriffs were given the oath.

August 12th 1776

(1)

A Meeting of the Justices of Loudoun County at the Courthouse
on Monday the 12th day of August in the Year of our Lord One
Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six —

Present

Josias Clapham
George West
Francis Peyton

} } Tho^s. Lewis
} } & Sam^l. Love Jr.
} } Gentlemen

The Oath agreed upon by the Honble Convention was presented
and read. Whereupon George West and Francis Peyton Gent.
Administred the said Oath to Josias Clapham Gent. & he Admini-
stred the said Oath to George West, Francis Peyton, Thomas Lewis
& Samuel Love Jr. Gent. —

Oath Administred

A Court held for Loudoun County
Monday the 12th day of August In the Year of our Lord One
Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Six and in the 1st Year of
our American Independance —

Present

Josias Clapham — George West
Francis Peyton — Tho^s. Lewis & Samuel Love Jr. Gent.

The Declaration of Independancy by the Hon^{ble} Congress was
read at the Courthouse Door by the Sheriff pursuant to an Order of
the Governor & Council of Virginia —

Decl. And read

Charles Binns was sworn Clerk of this Court pursuant to
an Ordinance of Convention —

Clerk Sworn

Philip Toland Esq^r. produced a Commission from his Excellency
by the Governor of Virginia appointing him Sheriff of this County
who took the Oath prescribed by an Ordinance of Convention and
on his Motion Ralph Murray and Christopher Perfect was sworn
Deputies under him —

Toland Esq. Sheriff

Deputy Sheriff Sworn

Indenture of Lease & Release from Charles Dawson & Wife
to Robert McElain Acknowledged & Feme Relinquished & Ordered to
be Recorded —

Dawson et al. to McElain

Indenture of Assignment from Thomas Brown to William
Fench proved by Solomon Brown & Joseph Brown & Certified
Absent George West Gent^l —

Brown to Fench

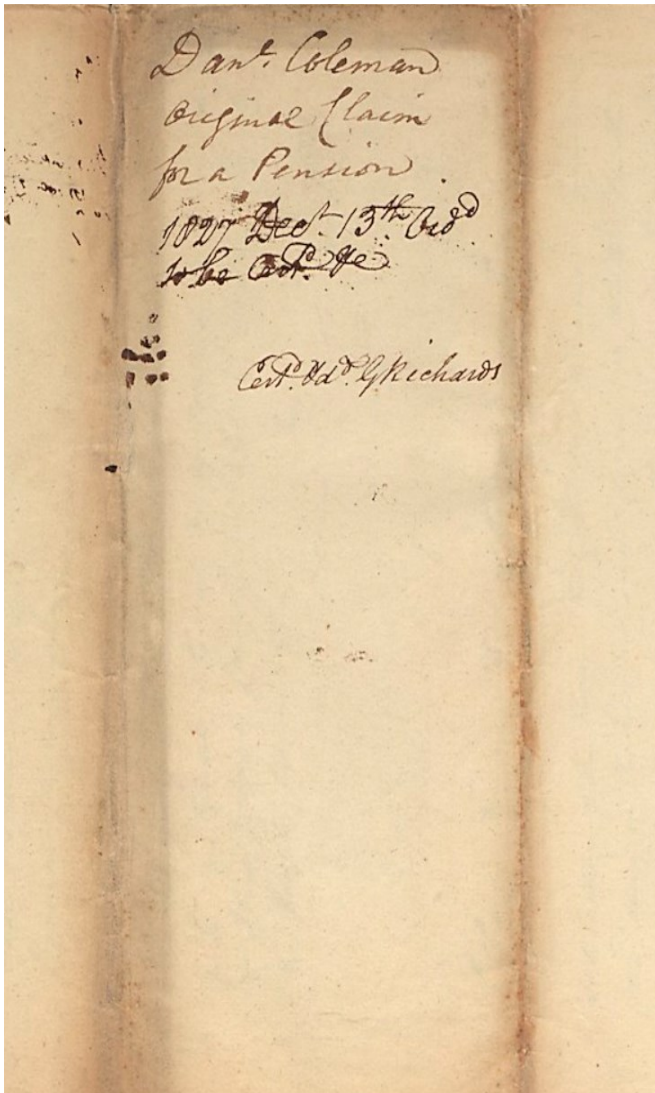
Daniel Coleman – Revolutionary War Soldier

Daniel Coleman was a Free African American who enlisted in the Continental Army in Maryland in 1781. He served at the Siege of Yorktown in October that secured the United States' independence from Great Britain. He was discharged in Loudoun in late 1781. At age 93 and unable to work, he filed a claim at the courthouse to prove he served during the war and could receive a Revolutionary War pension.

Daniel was unable to write, and he signed his application with his mark – an X. Two local men, Jacob Butler and Eleasen Thomas, came into the courthouse to testify in Daniel's support.

After proving his service, his application would have been sent to the Federal government for review. A local courthouse like ours would not have a record of the final disposition of his request.

Daniel fought for our country's independence; however, those freedoms did not apply to the thousands of men, women, and children who were enslaved. Their freedom would not come for another 89 years and the end of the Civil War.



Daniel Coleman's Pension Application – back

Danl. Coleman
original claim
for a Pension
1827 Dec. 13th Ord.
To be cert. & c. [certified etc.]

London County
Virginia, to wit: }
On this 13th day of December, 1827 personally appeared in open
Court, being a Court of Records, (that is to say a special term of the
Sap: Court of P. Coy. 10th Judicial ^{district}) Daniel Coleman resident in
said County aged ninety three years, who being first duly sworn
according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declar-
-ations, in order to obtain the provisions made by the acts of
Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820 that
he the said Daniel Coleman enlisted for the term of eighteen
months somewhere in the early part of the year 1781 at
a place called Taneytown in Maryland in a company
commanded by Captain _____ in the regiment
commanded by Colonel Muelenberg in the line of the
State of _____ on the _____ Continental estab-
lishment; that he continued to serve in the said Corp until
the capture of Lord Cornwallis in October 1781 where he was
discharged from the service in the County of Loudoun State
of Virginia; that he hereby relinquishes any claim whatever
to a pension, except the present; that his name is not
on the roll of any State, except _____; and that
the following are the reasons for not making earlier
application for a pension: 1st That until within a
few years past, he has with some charitable assistance
maintained himself by his daily labor. 2nd That until
lately he was ignorant that he might have a fair
claim for a pension.

And, in pursuance of the act of the 1st of May,
1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident citizen
of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I
have not, since that time, by gift, sale, or in any
manner, disposed of my property, or any part thereof,
with intent thereby to diminish it as to bring myself
within the provisions of an act of Congress, entitled an act
"to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land & Naval
" service of the United States in the Revolutionary war," - passed
on the 18th day of March 1818; and that I have not, nor has
any person in trust for me, any property, or securities,
contracts, or debts, due to me; nor have I any income

Daniel Coleman's Pension Application

Loudoun County

Virginia, to wit:

On this 13th day of December 1827 personally appeared in open court, being a court of record, (that is to say a Special term of the Sup. [Superior] Court of sd cnty [said county] 10th Judicial District) Daniel Coleman resident in said county aged ninety three years, who being first duly sworn according to Law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and the 1st of May 1820 that he the said Daniel Coleman enlisted for the term of eighteen months sometime in the early part of the year 1781 at a place called Taneytown in Maryland in a company commanded by Captain in the regiment commanded by Colonel Mulenberg [Muhlenberg] in the line of the State of on the continental establishment; that he continued to serve in the said corps until the capture of Lord Cornwallis in October 1781 when he was discharged from the service in the County of Loudoun & State of Virginia; that he hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension, except the present; that his name is not on the roll of any State except ; and that the following are the reasons for not making earlier application for a pension: 1st That until within a few years past, he has with some charitable assistance maintained himself by his daily labor. 2nd That until lately he was ignorant that he might have a fair claim for a pension. –

And, in pursuance of the Act of the 1st of May 1820 I do solemnly swear that I was a resident Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of March 1818 and that I have not, since that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner, disposed of my property, or any part thereof, with intent thereby so to diminish it as to bring myself within the provisions of an Act of Congress, entitled “an act “to provide for certain persons engaged in the Land & Naval “Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War,” – passed on the 18 day of March 1818; and that I have not, nor has any person in trust for me, any property, or securities, contracts, or debts due to me; nor have I any income

other than what is contained in the schedule hereto
Annexed, and by me subscribed.

his
Daniel X Coleman
mark

Schedule of Daniel Coleman & c.

Real Property – none

Personal Property – none

Debts owe to me – none

my occupation is that of a day laborer but I am
too old & infirm to work – I have no family residing
with me & none, who can, or do contribute to my support
& I live about from place to place as the charity of
the people permits –

his
Daniel X Coleman
mark

I Charles Binns Clerk of the Superior Court of
Loudoun County do hereby certify that it appears to the
satisfaction of the Court that the said Daniel Coleman
did serve in the Revolutionary War, as stated in the
preceding declaration, against the common enemy, for
the term of six months & seventeen days and on one Engagement
in the Continental Establishment. I also certify that
the foregoing oath, ~~or affirmation~~ and the schedule
thereto annexed, are truly copied from the records of the
said court; and I do further certify that it is the opinion
of the said Court that the total amount in value of the
property exhibited in the afors^d [aforesaid] schedule is _____
dollars and _____ cents _____. In testimony whereof, I have
hereunto set my hand, & affixed the seal of the said Court
on this 13th day of December 1827.

Clerk of the Superior
Court of Loudoun Cty.

State of Virginia
County of Loudoun

On this 13th day of October 1827 personally came before me Samuel M. Edwards one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid and a Justice of the County Court of said County Eleasen Thomas, who being first duly sworn, made oath that he was Williamsburg Va in the year 1781 in the service of the United States in the Revolutionary War – that he was attached to the 2nd or 3rd Regiment of Infantry, under the command of Capt. Hugh Douglas – that one Daniel Coleman a free man of colour, was also there in the service of the United States & he verily believes in the same regiment in which he the s^d [said] deponent served – of this point he will not be certain – but he does know that s^d Coleman was there in the service of the United States – where or when s^d Coleman enlisted he does not know – that said Coleman is very poor & aged man & incapable of maintaining himself – and the deponent knows s^d Coleman to be the same man who was at Williamsburg Va with him in 1781.

Sworn to & subscribed in my presence the Day & Date aforesaid

Eleasen Thomas
mark

Saml. M. Edwards
J.P.

State of Virginia
County of Loudoun County

On this 13th day of October 1827 personally came before me Samuel M. Edwards one of the Justices of the Peace for the County aforesaid [aforesaid] and a Justice of the County Court of said County Eleasen Thomas, who being first duly sworn, made oath that he was Williamsburg Va in the year 1781 in the service of of the United States in the Revolutionary War – that he was attached to the 2nd or 3rd Regiment of Infantry, under the command of Capt. Hugh Douglas – that one Daniel Coleman a free man of colour, was also there in the service of the United States & he verily believes in the same regiment in which he the s^d [said] deponent served – of this point he will not be certain – but he does know that s^d Coleman was there in the service of the United States – where or when s^d Coleman enlisted he does not know – that said Coleman is very poor & aged man & incapable of maintaining himself – and the deponent knows s^d Coleman to be the same man who was at Williamsburg Va with him in 1781.

Sworn to & subscribed in my presence the Day & Date aforesaid

his
Eleasen X Thomas
mark

Saml. M. Edwards
J.P.

State of Virginia
Loudoun County

On this 29th day of October 1827 Personally came before me
Noble S. Braden a magistrate for s^d county & one of the
Justices of the Peace for the County Ct of s^d County Jacob Butler,
who being first duly sworn made solemn oath that Daniel
Coleman, a free man of colour, who he understands is
applying to the War Department for a pension, is well
known to him & he knows him to be the said Daniel
Coleman who enlisted in the Army of the Revolution for 18 mos.
since in the early part of 1781 — that s^d Coleman was
under the immediate command of Capt. Samuel Roland &
attached to Genl. Mendenbergs' command & was at different
times in other companies — that he s^d Dependent was at
the Siege of York Town in 1781 & s^d Coleman there &
then in the service of the U. S. — and s^d Dependent further
says the U. S. was honorably discharged soon after said Siege —
& s^d Coleman was discharged at the same time — Dependent
further says s^d Coleman is now very aged & poor & he does
not know him to possess any part of property.

Subscribed & sworn to in my presence
Jacob Butler

This 29th day of Oct. 1827.

Noble S. Braden J.P.

State of Virginia
Loudoun County

On this 29th day of October 1827 Personally came before me
Noble S. Braden a magistrate for s^d [said] county & one of the
Justices of the Peace for the County Ct of s^d [aforesaid] County Jacob Butler,
who being first duly sworn made solemn oath that Daniel
Coleman, a free man of colour, who he understands is
applying to the War Department for a pension, is well
known to him & he knows him to be the said Daniel
Coleman who enlisted in the Army of the Revolution for 18 mos.
since in the early part of 1781 — that s^d Coleman was

Who Were the Non-Conformists?

In Colonial America, the Church of England (Anglican) was the only religious denomination accepted by the British government. Other religious groups, such as Baptists, Quakers, Presbyterians, and Roman Catholics were labeled as "dissenters" or "non-conformists."

Even though they did not support the Anglican church, non-conformists were still expected to pay taxes to the church. Criminal charges could be brought and a fine levied for not paying taxes.

In these examples from Loudoun County, a criminal charge was filed against the property owners for not giving the tax assessor an account of their property for tax purposes. They were found guilty and assessed a fine of 100 pounds.

The Commonwealth of Virginia
To the Sheriff of Loudoun County Greeting
We Command you that of the Goods and Chattels
of ~~James Janney~~ Janney — late in your Bail
with you cause to be made the Sum of One hundred
Pounds current money which the late in our
Court of our said County have recovered against
him for his Taxes imposed upon him for refus-
ing to give in to the Assessors of his District
an Account on Oath or Affirmation of his Tax
Articles in the year 1779 as also Two hundred
& forty — pounds of Tobacco & forty shillings —
which to us in our said Court were adjudged for
our costs by us expended in prosecuting the same
whereof the said James Janney — is convict
as appears to us of record and that you have
the same before the Justices of our said County
Court at the Courthouse of the said County on the
second Monday in June next to render to Us of the
Debt & Costs aforesaid & have then there the Writ
Witness Charles Primes Clerk of our said Court
at the Courthouse aforesaid the 19th Day of April
1781 and in the 5th year of our Independence
Chas^r Primes

Criminal Charge against Amos Janney

The Commonwealth of Virginia – To the Sheriff of Loudoun County greeting – We command you that of the goods and chattels of Amos Janney late in your Bailiwick you cause to be made the sum of One Hundred Pounds current money which we late in our court of our said County have recovered against him for his Fine imposed upon him for refusing to give in to the assessors of his District an account on oath or affirmation of his Tax articles in the year 1778 as also two hundred and forty pounds of tobacco and forty shillings which to us in our said court were adjudged for our Costs by us expended in proceeding the same Whereof the said Amos Janney – is convict as appears to us of record and that you have the same before the Justices of our said County Court at the Courthouse of the said County on the second Monday in June next to render to us of the debt and costs aforesaid and have then there this writ. Witness Charles Binns Clerk of our said court at the Courthouse aforesaid The 19th day of April 1781 and in the 5th year of our Independence.

Charles Binns

John Russell's Pension Application-back

John Russell

Declaration

1825 February 15 ord. [order] to be
certified.

*District of Virginia 3rd of
Loudoun County.*

*On this second day of September in the year 1824, per-
-sonally appeared in open court being a Court of
Record, and the 10th Judicial Circuit of the Superior
Court of Law for the Commonwealth of Virginia
John Russell aged sixty eight years and eight months,
who being first duly sworn according to
Law, doth on his oath make the following declara-
-tion in order to obtain the promise made by
the acts of Congress of the 18th of March 1818 and
the first of May 1820 that he the said John
Russell, indebted for the term of two years on the
— day of — in the year 1781 in the State of Virginia
— in a company of Horse, commanded by Capt. Thomas
Hughes in the Regiment, commanded by Col. Anthony
White in the line of the State of Virginia, on the
Continental establishment that he continued
to serve in the same corps until the close of the
Revolutionary War, when he was discharged from
the said service, by the said Col. A. White, near to the
City of Charleston in the State of South Carolina.
that he was at the Siege of York & Gloucester, at the
surrender of Lord Cornwallis in 1781, and was severely
wounded with a Bayonet in the right leg — that
he was subsequently in the Battle fought by Gen.
Wayne, against a Body of Indians on the 24th of
June 1782 in the neighborhood of Savannah in
the State of Georgia. — That he feels no incon-
-venience from the wound he received at Yorktown,
that he received an honourable discharge, but
having unfortunately lost it, he was ignorant
that the laws of his country had provided a way
by which he might in such case set forth
his claim — that he has no other evidences
now in his*

John Russell's Pension Application

District of Virginia

Loudoun County

On this second day of September in the year 1824, personally appeared in open court being a Court of Record, and the 10th Judicial Circuit of the Superior Court of Law for the Commonwealth of Virginia, John Russell aged sixty eight years and eight months, who being first duly sworn according to Law doth his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the promise made by the acts of Congress on the 18th of March 1818 [and] the first of May 1820 that he the said John Russell, indebted for the term of two years on the ___ day of ___ in the year of 1781 in the State of Virginia, in a company of Horse command by Capt. Thomas Hughes in the Regiment commanded by Col. Anthony White in the line of the State of Virginia on the continental establishment that he continued to serve in the same corps until the close of the Revolutionary War, when he was discharged from the said service, by the said Col. A. White, near to the City of Charleston in the State of South Carolina that he was at the Siege of York [and] Gloucester, at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis in 1781, and was severely wounded with a Bayonet in the right leg—that he was subsequently in the Battle fought by Gen. Wayne against a Body of Indians on the 24th of June 1782 in the neighborhood of Savannah in the State of Georgia.

That he feels no inconvenience from the wound he received at Yorktown, that he received an honourable discharge, but having unfortunately lost it, he was ignorant that the laws of his county had provided a way by which he might in such case set forth his claim [and] that he has no other evidences now in his

power of his said services, excepting the affidavit of Paul Shry and John Harris—hereunto annexed and the affidavit of Lindsay Pearson neighbor of the Paul Shry, testifying to his fair character; ___ which papers also hereunto annexed. And the said John Russell further declares that as the time he was discharged, he did not receive any pay for his services, nor has he recd. [received] any since ___ that his employment has been that of a case farmer, in the County of Loudoun, State of Virginia, where he has continued to reside since the Peace of 1783. Sworn to, and declared on the day and year above written, before and in open court.

Rob. [Robert] White
Judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit
Of the Superior Court of Law
For the State of Virginia

power of his said services, excepting the affidavits
of Paul Shry and John Harris—hereunto
annexed and the affidavit of Lindsay Pearson
neighbor of the S.^r Paul Shry, testifying to his
fair character; — which papers also
hereunto annexed. — And the said John
Russell further declares that at the time he
was discharged, he did not receive any pay
for his services, nor has he recd. any
since — that his employment has been
that of a Farmer, in the County of Loudoun, the
State of Virginia, where he has continued to
reside since the Peace of 1783. —

Sworn to, and declared on the day and year
above written, before me, in open court.

Rob. White

Judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit
of the Superior Court of Law
for the State of Virginia.

and in pursuance of the Act of Congress of the 1st of May
1820—the said declarant, has taken and subscribed
the following Oath and Schedule—in open Court—

I do solemnly swear that I was a resident
Citizen of the United States on the 18th day of
March 1818, and that I have not since
that time, by gift, sale, or in any manner
disposed of my property or any part thereof,
with intent thereby to diminish it, or to
bring myself within the provisions of an

1782

March 12th

71

66 Benj^r Mason is allowed for 221 lbs Beef 2/4

67 Peter Morgan for 141 lbs 9^o 2^d

68 Henry Ashton is allowed for 30 days hire of a Horse
in the ^{public} States service at 2/6 p day

68 Tho^s Poole is allowed 14/6 for sundries furnished the
Catawba Indians passing from Congress

Goods to the Catawba

Loudoun County Court Order Book G

March 12, 1782

Line 68

Thos. [Thomas] Poole is allowed 14/6 [14 shillings 6 pence] for Sundries furnished the

Loudoun County Va. To the Sheriff of Loudoun County,
Whereas Thomas Lewis Sheriff hath this day
made complaint before me the Subscriber Justice of Peace for
the said County, that Jesse Shamblain of this County did some
time ago sell to ~~George~~ ^{the} Purchasing Commissioner
at Leesburg, as Slaughtered Beef, a Cow, which it appears
was not killed by the S.^r Shamblain for that purpose, but
had died a Natural Death on his Plantation —
There are therefore to Command You to take the said Jesse —
Shamblain & bring him before me or some other Justice of
the Peace for the S.^r County to be examined concerning the Premises
And also that You require him the S.^r Jesse Shamblain to
bring sufficient Securities for his appearance at the next
Court to be held for this County. Given under my hand
Seal this 1st Day of March 1780. *Wm Harrison*
You are to summon such
Persons as may be supposed
necessary Witnesses in behalf of

The Case of the Bad Beef

Commonwealth v Jesse Shamblain, 1780, CR1783-009

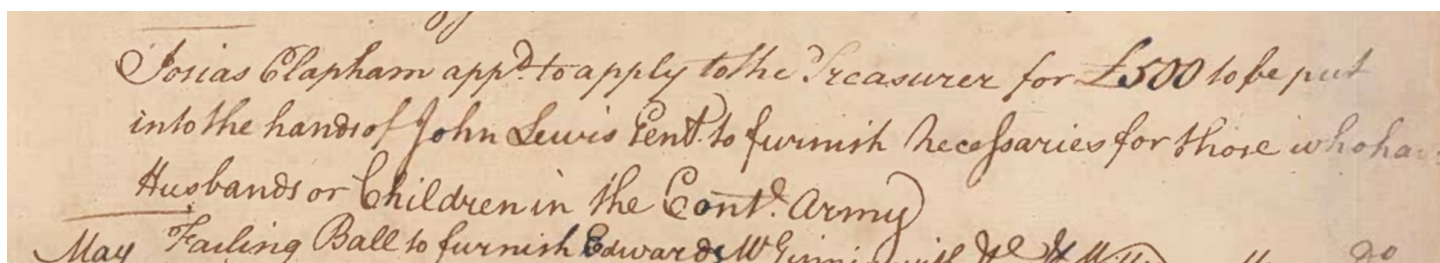
Jesse Shamblain was charged in April 1780 for selling improper slaughtered beef to the military purchasing commissioner in Leesburg

“... slaughtered beef, a cow, which it appears was not killed by Shamblain for that purpose, but died a natural death on his plantation”

The case was dismissed in May 1783 when Jesse Shamblain was not found.

Loudoun's Home Front

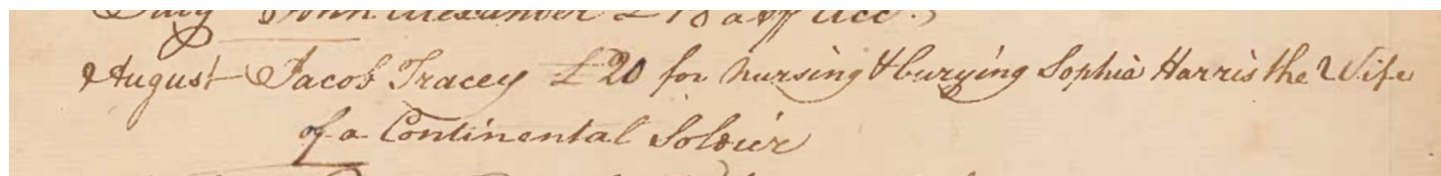
Virginia established quotas for each county to provide services and supplies to the Continental Army. This included food, clothing, and transportation. In October 1780, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation that required Loudoun to produce 55 suits of clothing for the Army. Each suit of clothing included two shirts, a pair of overalls, two pairs of socks, one pair of shoes and a hat of felt or leather. To obtain these quotas, Loudoun was divided into districts by the county court. Each district was required to produce one beef cattle weighing at least 300lbs, and one serviceable wagon, four horses and driver who would serve for one month. If citizens failed to provide their quota, they were charged with additional taxes to make up the difference.



Josias Clapham appd to apply to the Treasurer for £500 to be put into the hands of John Lewis Esq to furnish necessaries for those who have Husbands or Children in the Cont. Army

Court Order Book G, 1776-1782, Page 519

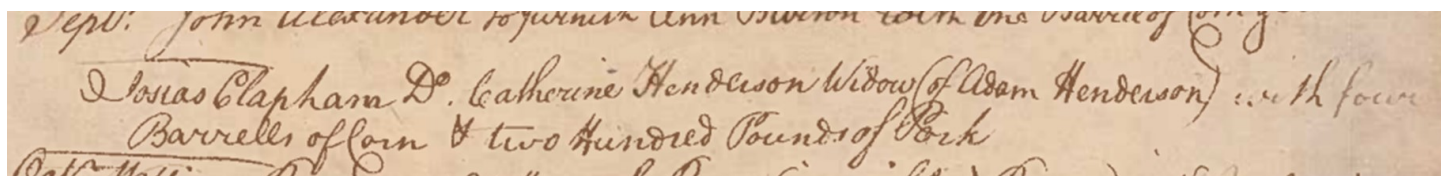
With so many Loudoun men in military service left many of families in need. The county court appointed men with financial means to supply “necessaries of life” to aid military families. In the above April 1779 Court Order Book entry, Josias Clapham is applying to the county treasurer “for 500 pounds to “furnish necessaries for those who have Husbands and Children in the Cont. (Continental) Army.”



August Jacob Tracey £20 for nursing & burying Sophia Harris the Wife of a Continental Soldier

Court Order Book G, 1776-1782, Page 521

Jacob Tracey is given 20 pounds by the county court for nursing and burying Sophie Harris whose husband was in the Continental Army.



Josias Clapham D. Catherine Henderson Widow (of Adam Henderson) with four Barrells of Corn & two Hundred Pounds of Pork

Court Order Book G, 1776-1782, Page 519

Court reimburses Josias Clapham for purchasing “four Barrells of Corn + two Hundred Pounds of Pork” Catherine Henderson whose husband Adam Henderson died in military service.

Provisions for the Families at Home

By Alyssa Fisher

Many of the men who joined the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War did not own land, have their own business, or live on independent wealth. Thus, the work these men did to provide for their families fell on the shoulders of their wives, children, or parents when they went away to battle. Recognizing the need for aid to the families of soldiers, Virginia legislation made provisions for some families during the men's absence. Loudoun records provide examples of the kinds of provisions given to the families of soldiers during the Revolutionary War.¹

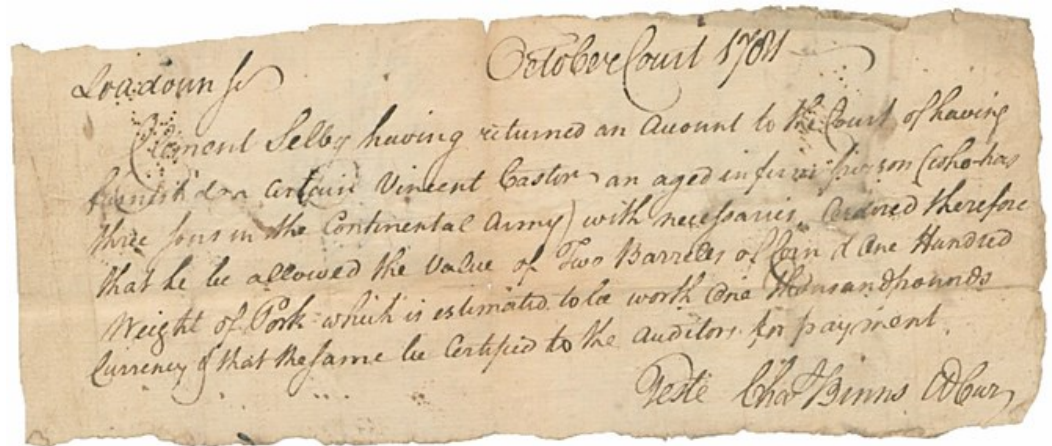
Legislation required county courts "to provide, at the publick [sic] expense, provisions and all other necessities for the support and comfortable subsistence of the wives, children, and aged parents, of all poor soldiers who cannot by their own industry support themselves." Several of Loudoun's documents reference provisions, mostly food items, given to wives and children of serving soldiers. One document from 1780 listed corn provided to the families of three different soldiers, Jacob Varne, Jacob Cross, and Casper Hoover. Jacob Varne and Jacob Cross's wives also received whiskey specified for the harvest. Molly Butler, and her three children received corn and bacon between 1778 and 1782 while her husband, Robert Butler, served in the Continental Army.²

Other documents reference the parents of men who fought in the Revolutionary War. John Shaffer required provisions as his son was "in the service." He received 100lbs of fine flour in 1780. Vincent

Castor, listed as "an aged, infirm person," received corn and pork as a provision while three of his sons served in the Continental Army. The widow Philips, whose son served in the army as well, received a number of provisions including corn, wheat, beans, pork, salt, and money for doctor expenses.³

Legislation also required county courts "to make a reasonable provision at the publick [sic] expense for the immediate support of the widows within their respective counties whose husbands shall have died or been slain in the service of the commonwealth." Catherine Hamilton's husband, David Hamilton, died while serving in the Continental Army. In 1780, she received "2 bushels of Rye and ten pounds of beef," as her provision for the year.⁴

While the majority of Loudoun Records involving public aid during the Revolutionary War provide basic information such as the name of the recipient, and the specific items provided to them, one particular record included great detail into the life of a child who received aid during the war. According to two accounts given in 1805, one by Liddy Head, the other by Elizabeth Hilyard, a man named Jacob Rhodes came to Leesburg from Delaware in the year 1776 with his wife Elizabeth. Jacob Rhodes enlisted in the army under



¹ "Revolutionary War: The Home Front," The American Revolution, 1763-1783, Library of Congress, accessed June 28, 2019, www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/amrev/homefront/.

² Hening, William Waller, *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of all the Laws of Virginia, from the First Session of the Legislature, in the year 1619* Vol IX (Richmond, VA: J & G Cochran, 1821), 279; "Jacob Cross," Loudoun County Misc. Papers, Revolutionary War Papers, 1780-10, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; "Robert Butler," Loudoun County Misc. Papers, Revolutionary War Papers, 1782-01, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

³ "John Shaffer," Loudoun County Misc. Papers, Revolutionary War Papers, 1780-03, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; "Vincent Castor," Loudoun County Misc. Papers, Revolutionary War Papers, 1781-03, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; "Philips (Widow)," Loudoun County Misc. Papers, Revolutionary War Papers, 1780-06, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

⁴ Hening, William Waller, *The Statutes at Large; Being a Collection of all the Laws of Virginia, from the First Session of the Legislature, in the year 1619* Vol IX (Richmond, VA: J&G Cochran, 1821), 344-345; "David Hamilton," Loudoun County Misc. Papers, Revolutionary War Papers, 1780-09, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

Captain Anthony Russell. Before traveling to Williamsburg, VA to join his regiment, Rhodes secured a place for his wife to live with George Emery.⁵

On July 12, 1776, Elizabeth gave birth to a son named George, and sadly died the same day. Jacob Rhodes returned to Leesburg a few days after the death of his wife, and claimed his son. Both accounts state that Jacob was “in great distress at the loss of his wife.” Elizabeth Hilyard kept the child for some time until Rhodes found a place for the baby with the wife of William Rhodes. George Rhodes remained in the household with William Rhodes until he was transferred to the home of George Nelson.⁶

Jacob Rhodes appeared in Revolutionary War payrolls beginning in November of 1776 through April 1777. He served in the 5th Virginia regiment as a fifer. In May of 1778, the court ordered the goods belonging to Jacob Rhodes be sold. Rhodes' possessions remained in the custody of George Emery, and an inventory of the goods completed in June of 1778 indicate that the items sold actually belonged to Rhodes' late wife which included gowns, ruffles, bonnets, and other articles worn by women of the time. In that same month, George Emery became the guardian of George Rhodes. As guardian, George Emery most likely had the possessions of Jacob and Elizabeth Rhodes sold in order to help support their son George. Accounts from 1778 through 1780

showcase the provisions given to George Rhodes from public aid as the son of a soldier. These provisions included boarding expenses, and various articles of clothing.⁷

Military records do not indicate what specifically happened to Jacob Rhodes, but both Liddy Head and Elizabeth Hilyard expressed in their accounts that Rhodes died in battle with the British. In February of 1791, George Rhodes became an indentured servant to John Littlejohn to learn the trade of a blacksmith. He must have done well as by 1798, he became the master blacksmith to his own indentured servant. Both accounts also stated that George Rhodes remained around the Leesburg area.⁸

While most records of public aid did not provide as much detail as the record for George Rhodes, these documents did indicate the kinds of necessities provided to families in need. Records of public aid also present some of the sacrifices made by the families of soldiers. Families ran the risk of not only losing a loved one, but also losing a vital member who contributed to their livelihood. Thankfully, Loudoun's records indicate some of the aid provided to those families during their time of need.

5 "Jacob Rhodes," Loudoun County Misc. Papers, Revolutionary War Papers, 1779-01, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

6 "Jacob Rhodes," Loudoun County Misc. Papers, Revolutionary War Papers, 1779-01, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

7 Jacob Rhodes, January 28, 1777, *U.S. Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783*, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed June 28, 2019); Jacob Rhodes, February 28, 1777, *U.S. Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783*, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed June 27, 2019); Jacob Rhodes, February 28, 1777 through April 1777, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed June 27, 2019); Jacob Rhodes, December 28, 1776, digital image, Ancestry.com, www.ancestrylibrary.com (accessed June 28, 2019); "Sale of Jacob Rhodes goods," May 12, 1778, Loudoun County Order Book G, Loudoun County Clerk's Office, 92; Rhodes Inventory/Account, Loudoun County Will Book B, Loudoun County Clerk's Office, 232-233; "Jacob Rhodes Sale," June 9, 1778, Loudoun County Order Book G, Loudoun County Clerk's Office, 104; "Soldiers Wives to be furnished with necessaries," November 15, 1778, Loudoun County Order Book G, Loudoun County Clerk's Office, 519; "Jacob Rhodes," Loudoun County Misc. Papers, Revolutionary War Papers, 1779-01, Loudoun County Clerk's Office.

8 Jacob Rhodes," Loudoun County Misc. Papers, Revolutionary War Papers, 1779-01, Loudoun County Clerk's Office; "George Rhodes bound to John Littlejohn," February 15, 1791, Loudoun County Order Book N, Loudoun County Clerk's Office, 85; "Luke Going bound to Rhodes," September 11, 1798, Loudoun County Order Book S, Loudoun County Clerk's Office, 190.

Supplies, Service, Draft and Pensions: Rev War documents in Loudoun County's Court Records

By Eric Larson

In Loudoun County's historic court papers there is a collection of records and Court Order Book entries on the contributions of Loudoun soldiers and civilians in the American Revolution.¹ When reviewing the county records from the Revolutionary War period, you quickly discover that many of these records and Rough Minute Book entries are related to the 1781 Virginia/Yorktown Campaign that secured America's victory over Great Britain.

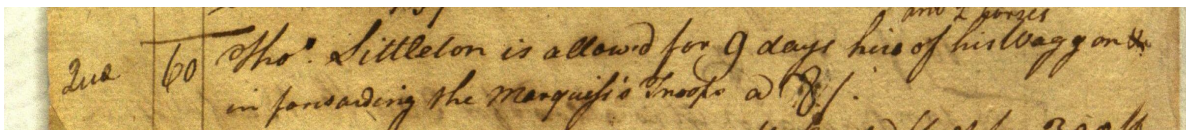
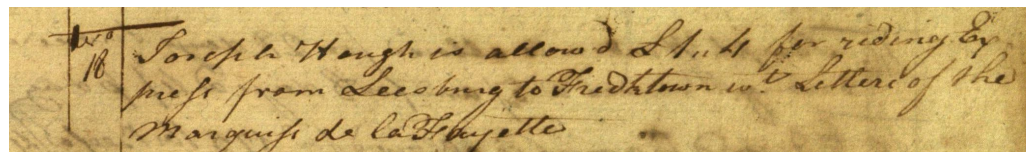
1782 Rough Minute Book and the Siege of Yorktown

In the 1782 Rough Minute Book there are hundreds of entries for citizens being reimbursed for goods, especially meat given to the Virginia Militia and Continental Army in 1781.² Among these accounts are nine entries about goods and services supporting Major General Marquis de Lafayette and the Continental Army in Tidewater Virginia.

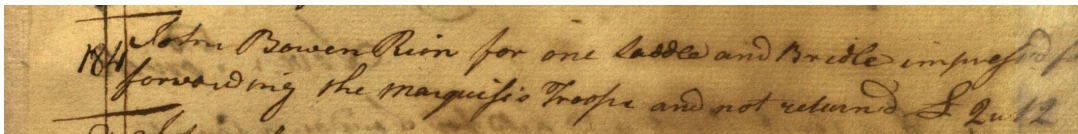
In March of 1781, General George Washington ordered Major General Lafayette with an army of 900 Continental Soldiers to Virginia to contain, and hopefully capture the British/Loyalist army under the command of former American General Benedict Arnold. With the mobilization of Virginia's militia and addition of regular army units, Lafayette's command increased to over 4,000 soldiers.

In the summer of 1781, British General Charles Cornwallis retreated back to Virginia from his unsuccessful southern campaign. Combining his troops with over 1,000 British soldiers already in Hampton Roads, Virginia, Cornwallis' forces easily outnumbered Lafayette's army. Cornwallis' re-deployment of his army behind the earthen works at Yorktown and Gloucester presented Washington and his French Allies an opportunity to trap the British.

*"Joseph Hough is allowed 1 pound 4 shillings for riding express from Leesburg to Fredericktown with a letter of the Marquis de Lafayette."*³



*"Thos. Littleton is allowed for 9 days hire of his wagon and 2 horses in forwarding the Marquis troops"*⁴



*"John Bowen Rion for one saddle and bridle impressed for forwarding the Marquis' troops and not returned."*⁵

1 A list of Revolutionary War court records can be viewed online @ <https://www.loudoun.gov/3422/Military-Indexes>

2 Rough Minute Book (RMB) was used by the county clerk to take notes during sessions of court. The clerk would transfer his notes from the RMB to the official Court Order Book. For some unknown reason the clerk never transferred much of the 1782 RMB to the Official Court Order Book.

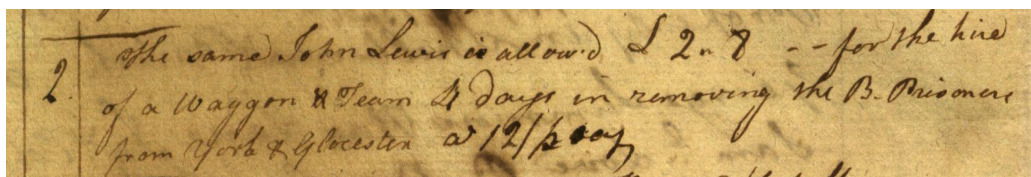
3 1782 Rough Minute Book, p 75,

4 Ibid, p 76

5 Ibid, p 96

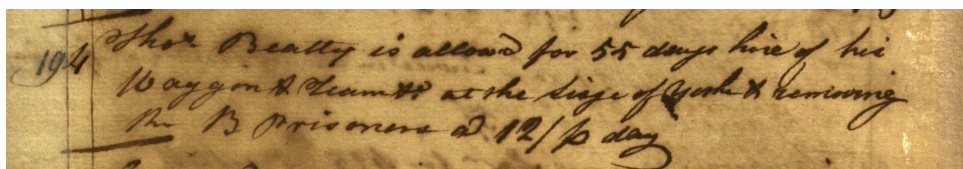
Washington ordered Lafayette's small army to contain Cornwallis' army until American and French Forces arrived in Virginia from New York and Rhode Island. In October 1781, a combined American and French force joined Lafayette's army trapping General Cornwallis' army at Yorktown and Gloucester. After a short siege, Cornwallis surrendered to Washington on October 19, 1781.⁶

Prisoners from the Yorktown and Gloucester campaign passed near Leesburg on the way to POW camps in Winchester, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. The Continental Army hired local wagons and teams to transport prisoners. Some of these British and German prisoners may have been the sick and wounded soldiers left in a hospital at Gloucester after the British surrender at Yorktown.



2. The same John Lewis is allowed £ 2. 8 -- for the hire of a Wagon & Team 4 days in removing the B. Prisoners from York & Gloucester at 12/p day

"...John Lewis is allowed 2 pounds 8 shillings for the hire of a Wagon & Team 4 days in removing the B. [British] Prisoners from York and Gloucester."⁷

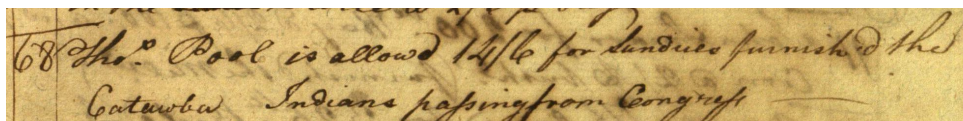


194 Thos Beatty is allowed for 55 days hire of his Wagon & Team at the Siege of York & removing the B. Prisoners at 12/p day

"Thos. Beatty is allowed for 55 days hire of his wagon & and team at the Siege of York and removing the B. [British] prisoners at 12pence a day."⁸

Native Americans

Loudoun's historic court records contain very few records that refer to Native Americans, so it was a surprise to find an entry in the 1782 Rough Minute Book on the Catawaba Indians from South Carolina.



68 Thos. Pool is allowed 14/6 for sundries furnished the Catawba Indians passing from Congress

"Thos. Pool is allowed 14/6 for sundries furnished the Catawba Indians passing from Congress."⁹

The Catawbas lived on a reservation in western South Carolina and were also American allies during the Revolutionary War. In 1780 General Cornwallis's army invaded South Carolina's back country, forcing the Catawbas to abandon their reservation and relocate to land along the North Carolina and Virginia border.¹⁰

Impressment

No fighting or British occupation occurred in Loudoun County, however it didn't spare county citizens from damages, impressment of goods and transportation by Continental and militia forces passing through the County.¹¹

6 Yorktown was the last major military campaign in North America in the Revolutionary War. The Treaty of Paris was signed in February 1783 ending the Revolutionary War.

7 1782 Rough Minute Book, p 74, 78, 80

8 Ibid p 77

9 Ibid

10 The Catawba Indians lived on a reservation in South Carolina established in 1763. The tribe was originally from North Carolina, but fled to South Carolina in the late 1750s to avoid an outbreak of smallpox.

11 The impressment of horses and wagons by the state militias and the Continental Army was common in the thirteen colonies/states, especially during a time of emergency and troop deployment.

314 Tom Hareford is allowed \$250 for damages done his
Dwelling House in Leesburg by a Detachment of
Continental Troops Quarters therein by the S. M.
the 1st of August in July 1780. who left town for

In 1780 criminal charges were filed against two individuals who refused to have their wagons and horses impressed by the Continental Army. Septimus Levering was brought before the court for failing to convey his horse and wagon “*to carry provisions for the lot raised Continental troops to Fredricksburgh...*” The case was discontinued in October 1780.¹³

Pensions

Another set of revolutionary records are affidavits filed by either the soldier or his family to claim Revolutionary War pensions and benefits from the War Department. From 1778-1832 a number of pension acts were passed by Congress to provide pensions, land bounties, and relief to soldiers and their families.¹⁵ The affidavits presented before the court were to verify that a soldier was from Loudoun and had served during the

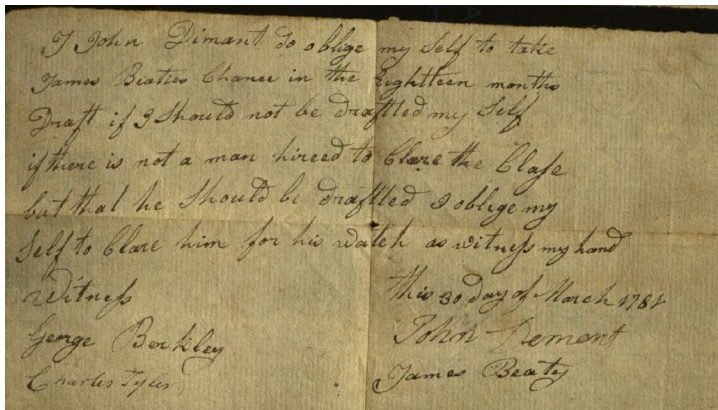
In 1824 John Russell, aged 68, went before the Superior Court of Law for the Commonwealth of Virginia to prove that he joined the Continental Army in 1781 for a term of two years.¹⁶ Russell's affidavit states that he served in General Anthony Wayne's division at the Siege of Yorktown "*and was severely wounded with a Bayonet in the right Leg...*"¹⁷

17 John Russell, Revolutionary War Papers, 1825-1801, General Wayne was under the command of Major General Lafayette throughout the Virginia campaign from March 1781-October 1781.

His affidavit further reveals, that he was part of General Wayne's army sent to South Carolina and Georgia in 1782 to restore America's authority in the back country, and to bottle up British forces in Charleston, South Carolina and Savannah Georgia. Russell states "...the Battle fought by General Wayne against a Body of Indians on the 24th of June 1782 in the neighborhood of Savanah in the state of Georgia."¹⁸

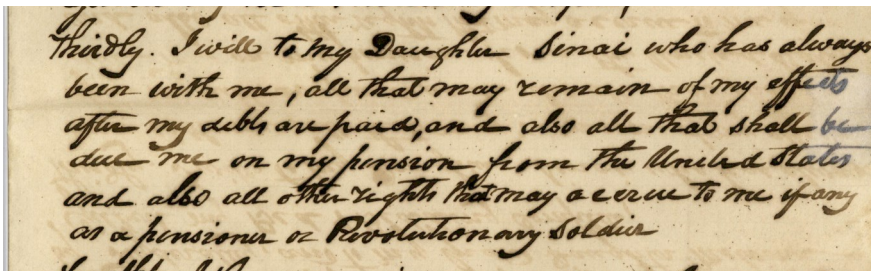
An affidavit filed by Paul Shry on behalf of John Russell further supports Russell's service and provides more detail on his time in the Army. In 1781, Russell joined Colonel White's Regiment of Horse in Petersburg, Virginia and served in the Yorktown Campaign. "...John Russel assisted in the capture of Genl. Cornwallis." Shry states that Russell served for eighteen months in the Continental Army and was discharged "without receiving any pay" in 1782.¹⁹

The Draft

A handwritten document on aged paper, likely a draft or military order. The text is written in cursive and includes the names John Dimant, James Beatey, George Berkeley, and Charles Tyler. It mentions a draft of 18 months and a date of March 30, 1781.

In 1781 John Dement agreed to take James Beatey's place in the militia if he was drafted into service for eighteen months. It was legal to pay an individual to take your place in the draft and was common practice. "To John Dimant [Dement] do oblige my self to take James Beaties [Beatey] Chance in the Eighteen months Draft if I Should not be Drafted my Self." "...this 30th Day of March 1781."²⁰

Probated Will

A handwritten document on aged paper, likely a will. The text is written in cursive and includes the name Sinai. It mentions a pension from the United States and a date of May 1843.

In May 1843 former Revolutionary War soldier Joseph Gilbert prepared his last will and testament. "I Joseph Gilbert of the County of Loudoun State of Virginia being in usual health, but mindful that my departure is very near at hand, do make my Last Will & Testament. Unable to write or sign his name, his will was prepared by a third party. With very

little property to pass on, he left his Revolutionary War pension to his daughter. "I will to my daughter Sinai...and also all that shall be due me on my pension from the United States and also all other rights that may accrue to me if any as pensioner or Revolutionary Soldier."²¹

Although the collection of Loudoun court records on the Revolutionary War is small, the scope of their content is extensive. This small collection provides primary accounts of what many Americans experienced during and after the Revolutionary War. Today, these records are popular with individuals proving their Revolutionary War lineage to join the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution.

18 John Russell, Revolutionary War Papers, 1825-001, General Wayne defeated the Creek Indians allied to the British in June 1782. Savannah and Charleston remained in British hands until the British evacuated the towns in the summer and December of 1782.

19 Ibid, Paul Shry was living in Loudoun County when he enlisted as substitute in for three years in March 1781.

20 John Dement v. John Beatey, Revolutionary War Papers, 1783.01

21 Will of Joseph Gilbert, Will Packets, 1843